Business-Specification Descriptions

The following topics are covered below:

- General Usage
- Dialog Function
- Object View and Other Modules with Parameter Interface
- Other Reusable Modules
- Validations
- Information Objects
- Data Elements
- Modification History
- Descriptive Traits

General Usage

The description of an object contains a business specification. To avoid the redundant storage of information, as long as objects can be identified from their references, it is not necessary to describe how they are related to one another.

This section describes various types of descriptive objects as well as the related descriptive traits.

Dialog Function

- Definition
- Function summary
- Related information objects
- Pre-definitions
- Validations (unless documented separately)
- Selection help
- Lower-level dialogs
- Performance aspects (optional)
- Comments

Object View and Other Modules with Parameter Interface

- Definition
- Function summary
- Input/output parameters
- Variables used
- Validations (unless documented separately)
- Comments

Other Reusable Modules

- Definition
- Function summary
- Variables used
- Comments

Validations

- Definition
- Related information objects
- Validations
- Comments

Information Objects

- Description
- Set structure
- Comments

Data Elements

- Description
- Value range
- Validation
- Access protection
- Comments

Modification History

At the beginning of the description, each object must have a modification log indicating who updated the object, when it was updated, and what modifications were made.

User	Date	Comment
USERX	11.06.95	Function completed
USERY	21.12.95	Program call XYZ adapted to new structure

Descriptive Traits

Descriptive traits are explained detail below:

Access Protection

Any data element related access restrictions.

Comments

Additional comments.

Definition

A brief explanation regarding the objective and content of the module.

Description

Module documentation.

Information Objects

All information objects which are accessed (read/write) from this object.

If access to an information object is performed using an object view, each information object of the object view must be listed together with the read or write operation codes.

Otherwise, all Natural views must be listed via which read/write access is performed from this object. In addition, a descriptor is to be provided.

A descriptor which is constructed from many components must be provided with the components in physical order.

The listing of Natural view and descriptor can be added at the earliest following the database design.

A tabular representation is recommended for readability:

Information Object		
L/S	Object view/	Oper. Code/Access Key ID

Input/Output Parameters

All parameters which are used when a module is called as well as all parameters which are returned by the module.

Lower Level Dialogs

Description of subfunctions which can be called locally from the main dialog function.

An indication as to whether the lower level dialog must be implemented as a modal or non-modal module must be provided.

If the subdialog is only available in one dialog function, the description of the subdialog can be provided here.

A reusable subdialog must be defined and described as a separate object and only listed here.

Pre-definitions - Defaults, Initializations

Defaults for dialog fields can be divided into two groups:

- Default entries when adding a data record;
- Calculations/derivations when adding/modifying a data record.

The calculation/derivation of field contents can result from:

- Algorithms (the formula used must be provided here);
- Contents of other information objects (these information objects must be listed);
- Profile definitions.

Representation in tabular form is recommended.

Performance Aspect

Information relating to performance aspects of the dialog function (response time behavior), for example:

- How often will the dialog function be invoked?
- How many users are expected to be using the dialog function concurrently?
- Will large amounts of data be processed, or only a single record?

Performance Scope

The performance scope must be clearly and precisely stated, i.e., which business functions are provided by the module.

Functionality which already is covered via frames must not be documented here (e.g., paging, transaction protocol).

Validation

For the specification phase, it is recommended that all known dialog related validations be described here, as long as these are not described in separate modules.

Formal checks on individual dialog fields, for example, ’Mandatory Field’ or ’Field must be completely filled’, can be included in the description of the data elements.

Later, in the implementation phase, all validations must be described centrally in the validation module of the object view, thereby making subsequent maintenance easier.

In this case, a reference to the validation module will be sufficient.

Selection Help

All data elements must be listed for which a selection help is to be provided.

If already known, the selected dialog element for the selection help can also be mentioned.

Set Structure

Information concerning set structure which will be useful for subsequent construction of database and application programs.

Used Variables

All variables which are used and a reference to where the variables are defined.

Value Area

If known, a listing of the possible values of the data elements.

